

Claims

1. A method, including the steps of  
associating an abbreviation with a multimedia object;  
receiving a set of sequences of keystrokes and mouse actions;  
when said abbreviation is detected in said set of sequences of keystrokes  
and mouse actions, replacing said abbreviation with said multimedia object.

2. A method as in claim 1, wherein said abbreviation comprises a relatively short sequence of keystrokes or mouse actions.

3. A method as in claim 1, wherein said abbreviation comprises a typed word.

4. A method as in claim 1, including the step of communicating said multimedia object to a recipient as an electronic chat message or an electronic mail message.

5. A method as in claim 1, including the step of presenting said multimedia object to a recipient in place of said abbreviation.

1           6.     A method as in claim 1, wherein each said multimedia object has a  
2 set of editable properties.

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4           7.     A method as in claim 6, wherein said editable properties are effective  
5 to select among a set of alternative multimedia objects, said alternative multimedia ob-  
6 jects differing in the effective editable property.

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8           8.     A method as in claim 6, wherein said editable properties include a  
9 size of said multimedia object, a complexity of said multimedia object, or a degree of de-  
10 tail of said multimedia object.

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12           9.     A method as in claim 6, wherein said editable properties are editable  
13 in response to a set of editing abbreviations.

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15           10.    A method as in claim 9, wherein each said editing abbreviation com-  
16 prises a relatively short sequence of keystrokes or mouse actions.

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18           11.    A method as in claim 6, including the steps of  
19 communicating at least one of said editable properties to a recipient with  
20 said multimedia object; and  
21 presenting said multimedia object to said recipient in accordance with said  
22 at least one of said editable properties.

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2           12.    A method as in claim 11, including the step of conditionally overrid-  
3 ing at least one of said editable properties in response to a capability of said recipient's  
4 presentation device, whereby said multimedia object is presented to said recipient in ac-  
5 cordance with a different at least one of said editable properties.

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7           13.    A method as in claim 11, including the step of conditionally overrid-  
8 ing at least one of said editable properties in response to an action by said recipient,  
9 whereby said multimedia object is presented to said recipient in accordance with a differ-  
10 ent at least one of said editable properties.

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12           14.    A method as in claim 13, wherein said action includes time taken by  
13 said recipient to review the multimedia object.

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15           15.    A method as in claim 1, wherein said multimedia objects include a  
16 text object, a sound object, a picture object, an animation object, or a program fragment.

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18           16.    A method as in claim 15, wherein said program fragments include an  
19 applet, an application, a pointer to a database retrieval engine, or a URL.

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1           17. A method as in claim 1, including the step of associating an ensemble with a set of said multimedia objects, said ensemble having a set of ensemble properties.

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5           18. A method as in claim 17, wherein said ensemble properties are effective to select among a set of alternative multimedia objects for each multimedia object in said set.

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9           19. A method as in claim 17, wherein said ensemble properties include a theme, said theme being effective to select, for each multimedia object in said ensemble, one multimedia object from a set of multimedia objects associated with said theme.

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13           20. A method as in claim 17, wherein said ensemble properties are editable in response to a set of editing abbreviations.

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16           21. A method as in claim 20, wherein each said editing abbreviation comprises a relatively short sequence of keystrokes or mouse actions.

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19           22. A method as in claim 17, including the steps of  
20           communicating at least one of said ensemble properties to a recipient with  
21           an electronic chat message or an electronic mail message; and

1           presenting said multimedia objects to said recipient in accordance with said  
2   at least one of said ensemble properties.

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4           23.    A method as in claim 22, including the step of conditionally overrid-  
5   ing at least one of said ensemble properties in response to a capability of said recipient's  
6   presentation device, whereby said multimedia objects are presented to said recipient in  
7   accordance with a different at least one of said ensemble properties.

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9           24.    A method as in claim 22, including the step of conditionally overrid-  
10   ing at least one of said ensemble properties in response to an action by said recipient,  
11   whereby said multimedia objects are presented to said recipient in accordance with a dif-  
12   ferent at least one of said ensemble properties.

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14           25.    A method as in claim 24, wherein said action includes time taken by  
15   said recipient to review the multimedia objects.

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17           26.    A method as in claim 1, including the steps of  
18           receiving a set of multimedia objects; and  
19           when one multimedia object in said set is detected having an associated ab-  
20   breviation, replacing said multimedia object with said abbreviation.

1           27.    A method as in claim 26, wherein said set of multimedia objects are  
2 associated with an ensemble.

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4           28.    A method as in claim 26, wherein said set of multimedia objects are  
5 included in a web page or a web site.

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7           29.    A method as in claim 26, including the step of transmitting a set of  
8 associations of said abbreviations with said multimedia objects.

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10          30.    A method as in claim 26, including the step of transmitting said set  
11 of multimedia objects after having inserted said abbreviations and before having removed  
12 said abbreviations.

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14          31.    A system, including  
15                a database having a set of abbreviations, each associated with at least one  
16 corresponding multimedia object;  
17                an input device for a sequence of keystrokes or mouse actions;  
18                means for detecting at least one of said abbreviations in said sequence and  
19 for replacing said abbreviation with said at least one corresponding multimedia object.

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21          32.    A system as in claim 31, wherein each said abbreviation comprises a  
22 relatively short sequence of keystrokes or mouse actions.

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2           33.    A system as in claim 31, wherein each said abbreviation comprises a  
3 typed word.

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5           34.    A system as in claim 31, including means for communicating said  
6 multimedia object to a recipient as an electronic chat message or an electronic mail mes-  
7 sage.

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9           35.    A system as in claim 31, including means for presenting said multi-  
10 media object to a recipient in place of said abbreviation.

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12           36.    A system as in claim 31, wherein each said multimedia object has a  
13 set of editable properties.

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15           37.    A system as in claim 36, wherein said editable properties are effec-  
16 tive to select among a set of alternative multimedia objects, said alternative multimedia  
17 objects differing in the effective editable property.

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19           38.    A system as in claim 36, wherein said editable properties include a  
20 size of said multimedia object, a complexity of said multimedia object, or a degree of de-  
21 tail of said multimedia object.

1           39. A system as in claim 36, wherein said editable properties are editable  
2 in response to a set of editing abbreviations.

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4           40. A system as in claim 39, wherein each said editing abbreviation  
5 comprises a relatively short sequence of keystrokes or mouse actions.

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7           41. A system as in claim 36, including  
8 means for communicating at least one of said editable properties to a recipi-  
9 ent with said multimedia object; and  
10 means for presenting said multimedia object to said recipient in accordance  
11 with said at least one of said editable properties.

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13           42. A system as in claim 41, including means for conditionally overrid-  
14 ing at least one of said editable properties in response to a capability of said recipient's  
15 presentation device, whereby said multimedia object is presented to said recipient in ac-  
16 cordance with a different at least one of said editable properties.

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18           43. A system as in claim 41, including means for conditionally overrid-  
19 ing at least one of said editable properties in response to an action by said recipient,  
20 whereby said multimedia object is presented to said recipient in accordance with a differ-  
21 ent at least one of said editable properties.



1           44. A system as in claim 43, wherein said action includes time taken by  
2 said recipient to review the multimedia object.

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4           45. A system as in claim 31, wherein said multimedia objects include a  
5 text object, a sound object, a picture object, an animation object, or a program fragment.

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7           46. A system as in claim 45, wherein said program fragments include an  
8 applet, an application, a pointer to a database retrieval engine, or a URL.

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10          47. A system as in claim 31, including means for associating an ensem-  
11 ble with a set of said multimedia objects, said ensemble having a set of ensemble proper-  
12 ties.

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14          48. A system as in claim 47, wherein said ensemble properties are effec-  
15 tive to select among a set of alternative multimedia objects for each multimedia object in  
16 said set.

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18          49. A system as in claim 47, wherein said ensemble properties include a  
19 theme, said theme being effective to select, for each multimedia object in said ensemble,  
20 one multimedia object from a set of multimedia objects associated with said theme.

1           50. A system as in claim 47, wherein said ensemble properties are edit-  
2 able in response to a set of editing abbreviations.

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4           51. A system as in claim 50, wherein each said editing abbreviation  
5 comprises a relatively short sequence of keystrokes or mouse actions.

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7           52. A system as in claim 47, including  
8 means for communicating at least one of said ensemble properties to a re-  
9 cipient with an electronic chat message or an electronic mail message; and  
10 means for presenting said multimedia objects to said recipient in accordance  
11 with said at least one of said ensemble properties.

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13           53. A system as in claim 52, including means for conditionally overrid-  
14 ing at least one of said ensemble properties in response to a capability of said recipient's  
15 presentation device, whereby said multimedia objects are presented to said recipient in  
16 accordance with a different at least one of said ensemble properties.

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18           54. A system as in claim 52, including means for conditionally overrid-  
19 ing at least one of said ensemble properties in response to an action by said recipient,  
20 whereby said multimedia objects are presented to said recipient in accordance with a dif-  
21 ferent at least one of said ensemble properties.

1           55.    A system as in claim 54, wherein said action includes time taken by  
2 said recipient to review the multimedia objects.

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4           56.    A system as in claim 31, including  
5 means for receiving a set of multimedia objects; and  
6 means for detecting when one multimedia object in said set has an associ-  
7 ated abbreviation, for replacing said multimedia object with said abbreviation.

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9           57.    A system as in claim 56, wherein said set of multimedia objects are  
10 associated with an ensemble.

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12           58.    A system as in claim 56, wherein said set of multimedia objects are  
13 included in a web page or a web site.

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15           59.    A system as in claim 56, including means for transmitting a set of  
16 associations of said abbreviations with said multimedia objects.

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18           60.    A system as in claim 56, including means for transmitting said set of  
19 multimedia objects after having inserted said abbreviations and before having removed  
20 said abbreviations.